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AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD EDITOR.

GREETING.

"God buries the workmen, but carries forward the work." So said John Wesley as he saw God's workmen falling, and others entering into the places thus made vacant. The work is not more important, however, than the workmen, if they be true and faithful. All God's work in this world is for the sake of men, for the regeneration and upbuilding of individuals and societies. Work, true work, for its own sake, there is none. The redeeming of men, the uplifting of classes, the sanctification of the family, the purification and perfection of the national life, the union of peoples into a real brotherhood of love, harmony and mutual interest,—that is the purpose of every kind of useful labor, religious, moral, educational, social, political. God's glory will take care of itself when men work with this aim.

When one workman succeeds another he not only enters into his place, in the ordinary sense, but he reaps the fruits of the former's sowing, he builds on the foundation which the other has laid. The place of his service is wider, the opportunities before him greater, his hopes larger, because of those whose work is done. He is under obligations which he ought never to forget. His own part would be impossible without the personages and the acts which have prepared the way before him.

At the same time, his work is his own; his look must be forward and not backward. His responsibilities, the claims resting upon him, while created, in a sense, and intensified by the past, are really measured by what is before him. To criticise the work of one's predecessors, judging them, as is usually done, by the standards of one's own time instead of by those of their day, is a comparatively easy task; to do faithfully and thoroughly one's own work, measured by the new demands of the hour, is a much more difficult thing and one which really tests a worker's worth.

The pen of Rev. Rowland B. Howard, our brother and co-laborer in the great cause of human brotherhood, is silent; his manly form, his face full of the kindness and peace which animated his heart, will be no more seen in the places which knew him so well; his voice will no more be heard in the councils of peace, but his work, done conscientiously and patiently and with a steady faith in the ultimate triumph of the principles for which he contended, will not cease. It lives and will live, in the lives of those whom he influenced for good, in the growing influence of the Society whose work he so long

managed, and in the rapidly developing peace propaganda throughout the world.

The present writer, just entering upon the duties of the secretaryship of the American Peace Society made vacant by Mr. Howard's death, feels deeply the importance and responsibility of the position to which he has been called. He respects and honors the men who have preceded him in the secretaryship. They with their co-laborers in the Society have laid the foundations of the work. They have declared the truth when it was unpleasant to hear, when men laughed them to scorn, or coldly ignored all that they had to say. They have struggled with financial straightness through which every good cause has to pass. They, with others, their fellow-laborers in other parts of the world, have forced men to listen to the claims of peace and peaceful methods of settling difficulties, until a great change has come in the convictions of society.

It is a very different thing to be a peace-man to-day from what it was when, early in this century, William Ladd first declared in New England that war is contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the Gospel of Christ and a great sin against conscience and common sense. Contempt and neglect have been largely silenced. Many have openly espoused the cause. Many are thinking right who have not yet opened their mouths. Peace societies have multiplied in many countries. Statesmen dare to introduce sentiments and resolutions of peace into legislative deliberations. A universal peace congress has been formed and grown into a fixed fact. Interparliamentary conferences are annually held in the interests of arbitration. In short, there is much that makes peace work encouraging now, compared with the state of things existing when even Mr. Howard entered on his duties eight years ago.

From another point of view, the task of the future will be more difficult and delicate than that of the past. There are those who talk patronizingly of our work as a most worthy one, and yet have no confidence in it, or secretly and behind our backs despise it. The enchantments of these two-faced, would-be supporters must be guarded against. The military specialists are defending war on grounds which make one tremble for the foundations of common morality. Nearly every government worth mentioning is taxing its intellect and its purse, as never before, to perfect the system of destruction and death. We are standing before an appalling contradiction in what we call our civilization. All the resources of militarism are drawn upon in order to keep the old, time-honored system from being driven out of the ring by the power of the new principles which are contending for the victory. The great contest is on. The task before us is serious in the extreme. There must be no faltering anywhere. Those are greatly mistaken who suppose that the conflict will be easy. Organized effort for securing the ends for which

the friends of Peace have been laboring is still in its infancy. Much remains to be accomplished in this direction. Wisdom, patience, energy, unyielding courage, will be needed.

In the work to be done, the AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE will continue in the future, as in the past, to set forth and defend the principles of justice, kindness, forgiveness, brotherliness, which are the basis of the whole movement. It will endeavor to show that war is a great financial and economic blunder, that it is anti-Christian and anti-social, that it is barbarous, unreasonable and unnecessary. It will seek to elucidate and emphasize the reasonableness, the fairness and the practical value of arbitration, of arbitral treaties and of permanent courts of arbitration. It will use its influence to prevent misunderstandings between different sections of this country, between different classes of society, and between this and other nations. It will do what little it can to awaken and consolidate public opinion, to enlist the active co-operation of ministers of the Gospel, of educators, of journalists, of legislators and of all other leaders of the public mind and conscience, in behalf of these ideas and objects. It will seek to be fair and impartial in its discussions of all questions and measures that may come under its notice. With these ends in view, we ask the co-operation and support of all those who are seeking to banish sin and discord from the world and to establish righteousness and peace, and we send a fraternal, Christian greeting and God-speed to all the friends of Peace everywhere.

THE CHINESE EXCLUSION BILL.

One of the most astonishing and humiliating pieces of legislation to which this country has been treated in a long time is the Chinese Exclusion Bill which passed both houses of Congress and was signed by the President on the 5th of May. For ten years we have had a similar, though much milder law, for which no intelligent reasons could be given. Both of the great parties are sharers alike in the responsibility for this new and cruel measure. A few Senators, like Mr. Sherman and Mr. Wilson, and some members of the House, had the courage to oppose it by both speech and vote. The exigencies of election time seem to blind many otherwise fair-minded men to the real nature of a measure like this.

Most of the strictly partisan papers throughout the land say but little about the passing of the bill. They have not the conscience to speak in its favor, and the exigencies of the coming campaign close their mouths from speaking against it. Some independent papers, and a few partisan ones, are, however, strongly protesting

against the action as opposed to the spirit of our institutions, as a flagrant violation of treaty rights, and as unfraternal in every way towards China. This feeling of displeasure is certain to increase, and it will not be long till the reaction will be so deep and widespread that those responsible for the legislation will be forced to feel the real character of what they have done.

One feels inclined to ask whether the same government that originated the Pan-American Congress scheme and the later reciprocity movement can be also the one that has given the force of law to this tyrannical and exclusive measure. It is humiliating to have to believe that one whose administration has, on the whole, been as wise and fair as that of the honored President of the Republic, could have affixed his name to this bill. But so it is. Politics, as well as everything else, seems to be full of inexplicable contradictions.

The Chinese Minister has entered a vigorous protest against this action. If China were not an old, unprogressive nation, so far away from us, more than protests would probably be heard. If she should retaliate, we need not be surprised. The treatment we have given her is not only in violation of the most sacred rights of treaties, but is exactly the same sort of thing which has led to many a war between nations. If China bears this provoking treatment with patience, she will have taught us a lesson which not only the hoodlums, at whose behest this action was taken, need, but which may well be heeded by the wise heads at Washington. Let all good men everywhere, regardless of party, speak out what their conscience commands and we shall soon be delivered from this national dishonor.

If we are to have restriction of immigration, which is certainly desirable in view of facts well known to all Americans, let it be fair and impartial, and not dictated by race hatred nor by a base fear of the voting power of certain disreputable classes. Our government, which has professed to be the leader in the cultivation of friendly relations with all the world, ought not so far to forget her high calling as to belie, by an act like this, every profession of honest desire to hold amicable relations to others.

THE BEHRING SEA DIFFICULTIES AND ARBITRATION.

General Lew Wallace, in an interview in March last with a representative of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, is reported to have said that he emphatically disapproves of President Harrison's action in agreeing to submit the Behring Sea difficulty to arbitration. The President's administration has been, in his judgment, an eminently wise, patriotic and manly one, but in this case he thinks the course pursued to be open to criticism. Our claims to the exclusive control of Behring Sea he thinks are so clear that it